

not this is the proper vehicle and proper method to do it. With that, I simply oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Senator Lynch. This could represent your closing, if you wish, Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Thank you, Mr. President. We will then make it the closing, to save time. First of all, as you may remember also, while Senator Vard Johnson was here we discussed and worked on, for some years, an indigent health care bill. To be perfectly frank, unbeknownst to me while we were working on the indigent health care bill the Appropriations Committee was apparently working with the doctors and hospitals too on LB 525. I didn't understand that. The alternative offered in LB 525 by the Appropriations Committee is understandable and I endorse that. What is unique is it's great to hear two prominent members of the Appropriations Committee tell somebody on the floor who is not involved with the appropriations process that they think what you're doing is kind of clever, they're not quite sure if it's legal, but it's a wonderful way to go about it, because I feel like we're almost human anymore around here because of that. However, what we're trying to do is to serve a different category of people. For example, the hospitals and physicians, in fact, are still serving people besides Medicaid patients who are poor, the people who are falling through the cracks, the working stiff who is out of a job temporarily, they need help and they take care of them. When we talked about 187, for example, on General and Select File I mentioned, of course, that the medical profession was, in fact, doing their duty, they were taking care of these folks. That problem still exists with or without LB 525. What this would do is by providing this kind of assistance to these medical professionals and institutions, and at the same time helping, in fact, at the county level, provide even more medical assistance which, in the long run, can, in fact, be a cost savings. You hear that about everything when people suggest we spend revenue monies. But the way this amendment is written would mean that we would spend no more than we originally asked to be spent for indigent care in Nebraska. Remember, this would not go into effect until next year, 1990. It would take this fiscal year for the Department of Social Services and, apparently in some cases, the Department of Health to gear up for this responsibility. Remember also that the county's responsibility for general assistance continues and will be maintained. It does not relieve in total the counties'